

Speaker Registration/ [REDACTED]

Name Dirk Koeppenkastrop
Phone 8085429276
Email dirk@ILGelato-Hawaii.com
Meeting Date 04-04-2017
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item Bill 13
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization
Organization IL Gelato Hawaii
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? Yes

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2017 APR -4 AM 7:38

My name is Dirk Koeppenkastrop and I am the founder and owner of IL Gelato Hawaii. I am a graduate from the University of Hawaii and as there are no higher-level jobs as a chemist my wife and I started a small business here in Honolulu six years ago.

We make all natural high quality gelato (ice cream) here in Hawaii and sell wholesale to restaurants, operate two retail locations and a retail outlet at our factory. We have approximately 45 employees. Our business is located in the Iwilei Business Center at 501 Sumner Street. A lot of our employees do street parking as they cannot afford to rent a parking stall at the Iwilei Business Center. We had several incidents where our employees were harassed and cars vandalized by the homeless community sitting and lying right on the side walks. The police never does anything and we are having a hard time recruiting employees because of those issues.

Written Testimony We also have a problem with our customers. We have a 5 Star Yelp rating for over six years and have a lot of customers visiting our factory. With all the homeless sitting and lying on the streets and urinating and defecating all over the place we have our customers only come ones. They are appalled by the situation and don't feel safe. Some of those customers are adventurous tourists from the mainland and abroad and they are surprised how many homeless there are in Hawaii. This is not looking good for a high-class tourist destiny.

It is very difficult to operate a business in Hawaii and this homeless situation in front of our business is making it harder. We ask you to please pass Bill 13 to provide the police a basis to take action

We strongly support Bill 13.

Sincerely,

MISC. COM. 1401

Dirk Koeppenkastrop, Ph.D.

Testimony
Attachment

Accept Terms
and Agreement 1